

Improved Storage and Maintenance
of Blood Products Including Red Blood
Cells and Platelets

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 Cell membrane maintenance of red blood cells and platelet concentrates is
improved by the addition of 1 mM -10 mM L-carnitine and derivatives. This
improvement allows extension of the period of viability of packed red blood cells and
platelet concentrations beyond current periods. Additionally, the materials so treated
exhibit extended circulation half life upon transfusion to a patient. Improvements in
10 membrane maintenance achieved by this method permit irradiation of sealed
containers of blood products so as to substantially sterilize and destroy leukocytes in
the same.

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